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Patriotic Parkas

Made-in-Canada is now in style. Page 24.

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

A JOYFUL, 'SURREAL' REUNION

Gary Freeman is greeted by his wife Natercia Coelho upon his return to Toronto at Pearson International Airport on Wednesday. Looking deeply into her eyes, he said, "This is so surreal. I keep waiting for someone to pinch me." The reunion marked the first moments with his family in Canada since 2008, when he flew to Chicago to face charges that he wounded an officer in 1968 in what he called an act of self-defence. See story, page 6. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto wages on the decline

Your money. New report shows that our city fares poorly on income growth compared to rest of Canada

An analysis of the latest Statistics Canada figures on median employment income shows workers in Toronto are bringing home less money, despite increases across much of Canada.

The study by the Ottawa-based Broadbent Institute found that Ontario's median income decreased by 1.7 per cent to $32,140 between 2006 and 2012.

Workers across most of Ontario are becoming poorer, statistics show. All other provinces and territories except British Columbia saw median income rise during the same period.

In Toronto, the median income dropped by 2.8 per cent, to $32,670, the study says. "It does suggest that living standards in Ontario are stagnating," said the Broadbent Institute's senior policy adviser, Andrew Jackson.

Employment income, rather than money earned from investments, pensions or benefits, makes up the biggest chunk of overall household earnings. The research looked at median rather than average employment income levels, since averages tend to be skewed by large income increases for the very rich.

Nationally, median incomes went up by 3.5 per cent. Newfoundland and Labrador was the best-performing province, with income growth of almost 38 per cent over the six years studied. Resource-rich provinces such as Saskatchewan and Alberta also saw significant gains.

In Ontario, though, the picture was much bleaker. Of 14 regions surveyed, only three — Ottawa, Kingston, and Sudbury — saw incomes rise.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

More coverage

Labour group says province should boost workers' wages. Story, page 4.

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NE013C115

Metropass

Transit pass a better deal in other cities

With the new fare hikes announced earlier this week, Torontonians will have to ride the TTC more than 50 times a month to make the Metropass worth its price.

That's one of the least generous discounts for a monthly unlimited-rides pass at any of the major urban transit systems in the world, according to numbers compiled by Torstar News Service.

New Yorkers have to take the bus 41 times a month to get their money back, while Berliners only need to ride 30 times. Londoners, however, need to ride the tube 53 times to account for the cost of a pass.

The TTC says this is mostly because it receives the smallest public subsidy in North America. The TTC's data show that despite having the continent's second biggest ridership, it is more reliant on the fare box than any other.

In other words, the TTC would offer a bigger discount, but it can't afford to.

"It's straight funding," said TTC spokesman Chris Upfold, adding that the average Metropass user takes 70 trips per month. "Every time we either raise the price of a Metropass or the number of trips you need to take, it comes down to funding."

Most major metro systems receive operating funds from the provincial or federal government, or both.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Teen's death spurs TTC to push for safety plan

Transit. Amaria Diljohn, 14, was killed by a turning bus on her way home from school last month

Crystal Diljohn at the vigil last month for her 14-year-old daughter, Amaria. The TTC is proposing a 12-point Safe Service Action Plan following the heartbreaking death of Amaria, who was killed by a turning bus on her way home from school. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The TTC wants to use GPS data, dashboard cameras, radar checks and beefed-up driver training to improve the safety performance of its bus and streetcar operators.

But the head of the TTC union says the transit system is blaming drivers for its own failure to provide realistic route schedules.

"The reality is we have a major scheduling problem out on the street. The crowding of vehicles, the buses that are crowded like sardines are a reflection of that. What needs to be addressed initially and foremost is the scheduling problem we have out there ... that is leading to deficiencies and some of the safety plan incidents that have occurred in the last year" said Bob Kinnear, president of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 113.

"We are operating under schedules that I drove under 20 years ago. The time they allow for operators to make it from one end to the other on Jane Street is the same as it was 20 years ago," he said.

The TTC is proposing a 12-point Safe Service Action Plan following the heartbreaking death last month of Amaria Diljohn, 14, who was killed by a turning bus on her way home from school.

In October, a 65-year-old woman was killed after being hit by a bus at Lawrence West Station.

A review of TTC safety was already underway following a series of videos showing red light-running buses.

But TTC CEO Andy Byford ordered the report, delivered to the TTC board on Wednesday, expedited following Diljohn's death. Police have not laid charges in connection with the tragedy.

The TTC is reviewing it s schedules to make sure they work in reality as well as on paper, said Byford following the board meeting.

"Streets are getting ever busier, traffic congestion is getting worse. But there is a safety angle to this as well. We are stressing to our operators to focus on safe operation of the vehicle. Obviously schedules are important but not at the expense of safety," he said.

Among the safety initiatives the TTC is testing is the masking or elimination of the communications display units that tell drivers when they're running behind schedule.

"There was some evidence of feedback from the operators that they felt they were being hurried by their supervisors via the (communications) unit because that showed you whether you're ahead or behind schedule," said Byford.

As a result, the units are being covered up on East Mall buses to see what the impact will be on operators, safety and schedules.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TORONTO Call 311

Join the discussion about Toronto's 2015 Budget

The City of Toronto delivers over 150 different services. The Operating Budget determines which programs and services the City will offer and how much the City will raise and spend within a year. The Capital Budget & Plan provides funding for the facilities and infrastructure required to deliver those services. Staff-recommended budgets are now being considered by the Budget Committee for recommendation to the Executive Committee and City Council.

Review the proposed 2015 Budget by visiting **toronto.ca/council** or **toronto.ca/budget2015**. To participate in the 2015 Budget discussion:

1. Make a public presentation at one of the Budget Subcommittee meetings on February 2 or 3, 2015.
Register by email to buc@toronto.ca or by calling 416-392-4666 before 4 p.m. on January 30. Indicate your choice of location, date and session number. Individuals may make only one presentation at any one of the consultation sessions.

City Hall
Committee Room 1
100 Queen St. West
February 2
Session 1 – 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Session 2 – 6 p.m. onwards

Etobicoke Civic Centre
Council Chamber
399 The West Mall
February 2
Session 1 – 3 to 5 p.m.
Session 2 – 6 p.m. onwards

Scarborough Civic Centre
Council Chamber
150 Borough Drive
February 3
Session 1 – 3 to 5 p.m.
Session 2 – 6 p.m. onwards

North York Civic Centre
Council Chamber
5100 Yonge Street
February 3
Session 1 – 3 to 5 p.m.
Session 2 – 6 p.m. onwards

2. Send your written comments about the 2015 Budget to the Budget Committee.
Email: buc@toronto.ca. Fax: 416-392-1879, Attention: Budget Committee. Mail: Attention: Budget Committee, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W., 10th floor, West Tower, Toronto, ON M5H 2N2.

3. Send a letter or email concerning the 2015 Budget to your local City Councillor.
For information on how to contact your City Councillor, please call 311, TTY: 416-338-0TTY (0889), email 311@toronto.ca or visit toronto.ca.

Notice: If you write or make a presentation to the Budget Committee, the City will collect and use your personal information in accordance with applicable laws. We also videotape meetings and make recordings publicly available on request. More information about the collection and use of your personal information is available at: http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/privacy.htm.

Strike vote looms at York University

Labour. Bargaining talks are ongoing between the school and union representing teaching staff

LUKE SIMCOE
luke.simcoe@metronews.ca

The union representing teaching assistants and contract faculty at York University is preparing for a strike vote, stirring memories of a bitter labour dispute that shut down the school in 2008.

CUPE 3903, which represents nearly 3,700 graduate students and faculty at York, is negotiating a new contract. Union chairman Faiz Ahmed told Metro talks have reached "a bit of an impasse," particularly around the issue of working conditions for contract teachers.

"They're hired on a per-term basis and once that course is over, there's no predictability around whether that course will be brought back, or when it will be brought back," he said.

Roughly 60 per cent of classes at York are taught by contract staff. Ahmed said the university's reliance on temporary teachers negatively impacts students because contract faculty are given less time to prepare course materials.

"It's about the bottom line; it's a cost-saving mechanism," he said. "The university can get contract faculty to teach much more and pay them considerably less than what they would pay tenure-track faculty."

The union's strike vote starts Friday. At this point, it's strictly procedural, Ahmed said.

"Voting will end the following Friday, but that doesn't mean we'll be in a strike position on Monday," he said. "It just means we have the mandate to call a strike."

A provincially appointed conciliator has been brought in and both sides remain at the bargaining table. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday.

"We recognize that a strike vote can be part of the bargaining process ... and we look forward to continue working with the CUPE 3903 bargaining team," York spokeswoman Joanne Rider said.

Previous strike

In 2008, CUPE 3903 went on strike over a similar issue. The job action lasted 85 days, making it one of the longest faculty strikes in Canadian history.

Group urges more provincial action on equal pay, full-time jobs

The study by the Ottawa-based Broadbent Institute, which found that the median income dropped in Toronto by 2.8 per cent, is bolstered by research from McMaster University and United Way showing that about one in five working people in the GTA-Hamilton area are in precarious employment.

Deena Ladd, of the Workers Action Centre, a labour rights group, said the Ontario government could do more to boost wages by mandating equal pay for equal work. Employees who are sub-contracted or hired through temp agencies are often paid far less than those in permanent positions, even when doing the same job.

"They could be helping to promote full-time work, introducing polices that mean that workers should be able to get hours they can live on," said Ladd.

Federally, Andrew Jackson, the Broadbent Institute's senior policy adviser, said the government's focus on resource-based expansion may have fuelled skewed income growth across the country.

"I think their major focus has been very much on the development of the resource economy, and manufacturing has been something of an afterthought," he said.

"You say 'manufacturing' and people tend to think of blue-collar jobs and smokestack industries. But there are a lot of high-end jobs in manufacturing as well as the knowledge economy.

"In the recession of 2009, we saw very significant losses at better-paid-than-average manufacturing jobs, and a very limited recovery of those jobs since."

The sector's slump could also have a spillover effect on service-sector jobs in Toronto.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Deena Ladd, of the Workers Action Centre, says the government could be helping to promote more full-time work for Ontarians.
RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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‘Wizards’ win one for workers’ rights

Campaign. Harry Potter Alliance, including local chapter, gets Warner Bros. to commit to selling only fair-trade chocolate — with some help from J.K. Rowling

When Toronto’s Minister of Magic made her announcement, it was to rapturous applause from a room full of witches and wizards. Even the Dark Lord was on hand to revel in the good news.

The Minister, known to the non-magical Muggle world as 23-year-old York University student Alessandra Di Simone, says she jumped up and down with excitement last week when she learned that a four-year campaign by socially-minded Harry Potter buffs finally convinced entertainment giant Warner Bros. to source its entire line of wizard-themed chocolate from ethical producers.

The crusade was driven by members of the Harry Potter Alliance, an international network that rallies members in 45 countries around the social values it says Potter promotes. Di Simone heads the lone Toronto chapter of the Alliance.

The “Not in Harry’s Name” campaign focused on poor working conditions faced by cocoa farmers, who often survive on around 40 cents a day, according to the International Labour Rights Forum. Child labour is also widespread in the industry.

The Alliance argued that Warner Bros. failed to live up to Harry Potter’s message of social justice by using chocolate that was not fair-trade certified. Fair-trade goods require producers to meet social and environmental standards such as paying fair wages and banning forced labour.

Warner Bros. distributes the films based on J.K. Rowling’s wildly successful books about a spirited gang of students who routinely take on their evil nemesis, Lord Voldemort. The corporation has also created a spinoff line of candy including Chocolate Frogs, used in the Rowling books to cure attacks by soul-sucking dementors.

Di Simone says she was one of the first to sign the initial petition circulated by the Alliance four years ago, asking the company to use ethical chocolate. A later version of the petition, ramped up after Warner Bros. seemed unresponsive, attracted some 400,000 signatures. Celebrity supporters included Evanna Lynch, who plays the clever and whimsical witch Luna Lovegood in the Potter movies, and Mark Williams, who portrays the Muggle-loving Arthur Weasley.

After founding the York University-based branch of the Harry Potter Alliance in 2012, the city’s Minister of Magic said she had no difficulty getting members on board with the campaign.

“It was just, ‘Where to do I sign?’” Di Simone recalls.

But Rowling’s own intervention gave the cause an important boost, too. According to Alliance spokesperson Lauren Bird, the author asked Warner Bros. executives to meet with the group last summer about their concerns. Then, in a December letter, the corporation committed to using 100 per cent fair-trade certified chocolate for all Harry Potter products by the end of 2015.

“It was kind of like the best Christmas present ever,” says Bird.

No magic was used to secure the victory. Instead, Bird says the Alliance relies on “the power of story, as well as the intrinsic enthusiasm and community spirit of fans, to … mobilize them toward social action and learning about different social justice issues.”

That, Bird argues, represents an important new model of activism for young people who might not otherwise have an outlet for it.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Harry Potter fans and members of York University’s Ministry of Magic attend the annual Yule Ball last Friday, where the announcement was made that Warner Bros. had committed to selling only fair-trade chocolate. COURTESY MARK PAGLIAROLI

Quoted

“The Harry Potter series is about so much more than love and acceptance. It’s all about equality and fair conditions.” Alessandra Di Simone, Toronto’s Minister of Magic

Former fugitive back with family after years apart

After years of legal turmoil, Gary Freeman is finally back in the arms of his family in Mississauga.

Freeman returned home from the United States Wednesday night, more than a year after a judge ruled he was wrongly labelled a terrorist and unfairly linked to the now-defunct Black Panther Party.

His homecoming marks another chapter in a 45-year saga that began when he was a teenager. Now a grandfather, his ordeal includes living decades as a fugitive, almost four years behind bars in Toronto’s Don Jail as he fought extradition to the U.S., and nearly seven years of fighting to return to Canada.

The former Toronto librarian’s assistant arrived at Pearson International Airport, hours after he received word that he was granted a temporary resident permit after several unsuccessful attempts.

“Daddy!” shouted one of his daughters when she spotted her dad walking out of arrivals.

Freeman, 65, embraced his adult children as they ran toward him and held them in a tight, quiet hug. He kissed his wife, pulled at his son’s beard and stroked his daughter’s face.

Gary Freeman is hugged by his children at Pearson International Airport Wednesday. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

“This is perhaps the most surreal moment in my life,” he told Torstar News Service, tears brimming in his eyes, overcome with emotion.

He took deep breaths and then joked about pulling on an extra coat. “I’m in Canada, right?”

The family each grabbed a suitcase and prepared to walk off, but Freeman stopped and turned to his wife, Natercia Coelho.

Looking deeply into her eyes, he said, “This is so surreal. I keep waiting for someone to pinch me.”

Wednesday evening marked the first time Freeman spent in Canada with his family — three daughters and a son — since 2008, when he flew to Chicago to face charges that he wounded an officer in 1968 in what he called an act of self-defence.

He said he was stunned to receive a one-page letter on Wednesday morning from the Consulate General of Canada that begins: “A temporary resident permit has been approved. You may now travel to Canada.” TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ex-owner of Ikea monkey defends latest purchases

The former owner of Darwin the Ikea Monkey, who recently purchased two new monkeys, lashed out at her critics on Wednesday, saying she is perfectly capable of caring for the animals.

Yasmin Nakhuda, who famously called Darwin her “son,” has already started referring to her six-year-old female Japanese macaque, Tibet, as her “little girl.”

“Monkeys are like people,” she told Torstar News Service. “They will recognize you. They know who you are. They read you. They can understand you. They can act like human beings.”

She recently purchased the two macaques — Tibet and Sumo (a male) — from Northwood Zoo in Seagrave, near Lake Scugog. They now live in separate enclosures on her sprawling estate in the village of Pontypool in the Kawartha Lakes region, where she also keeps horses and alpacas. The municipality does not have a bylaw against owning exotic pets.

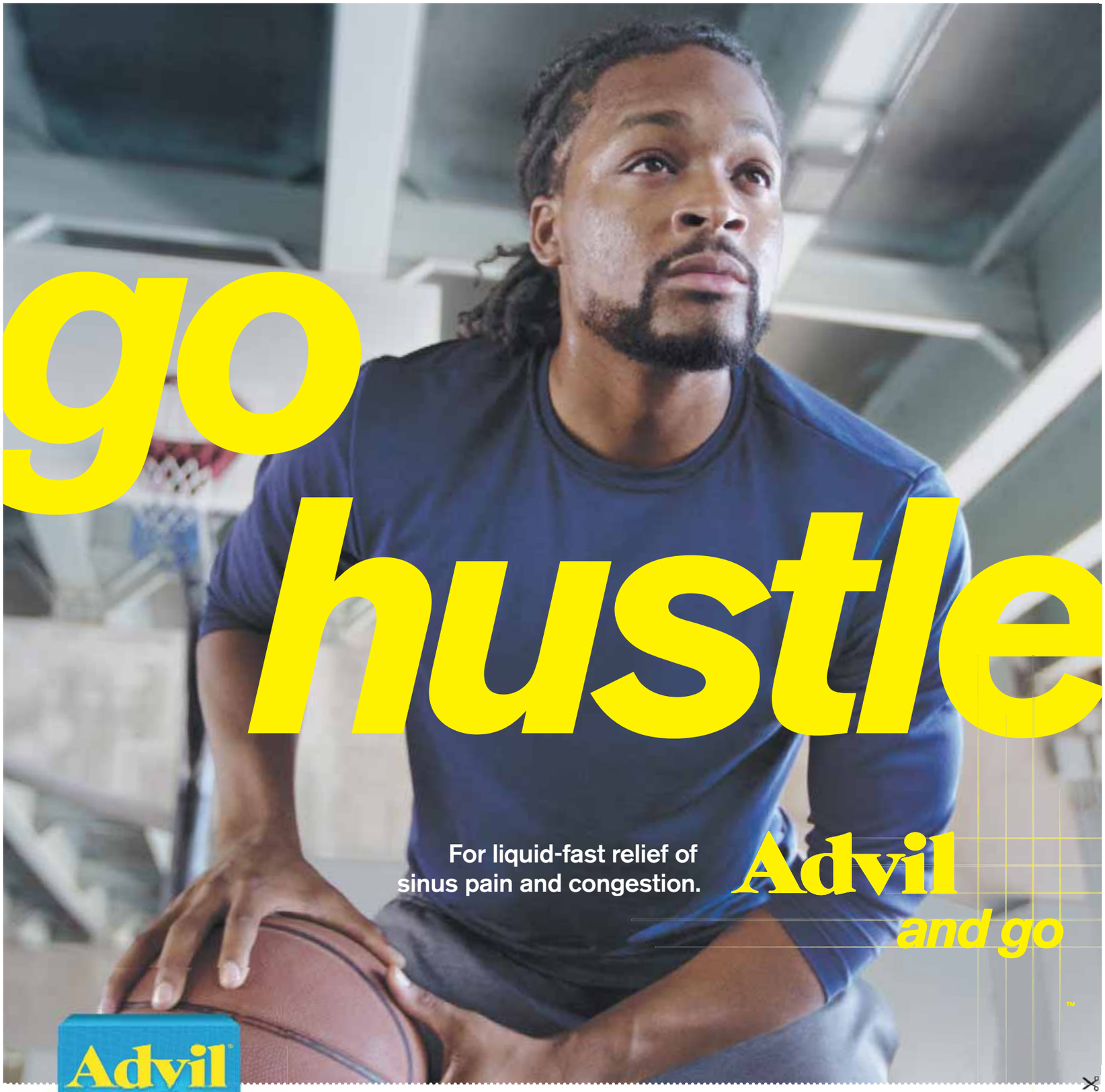
She said she moved to Kawartha Lakes because it is not illegal to own an exotic pet, but said it was never her plan to buy more monkeys.

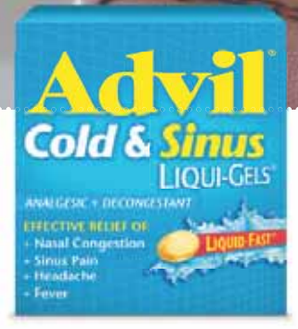
Nakhuda made headlines in 2012 when Darwin, dressed in a shearling coat, was seen traipsing around a Toronto Ikea parking lot. He has lived at Story Book Farm ever since. Nakhuda lost a court battle in 2013 to regain custody of him.

“I found out that there were two Japanese macaques at Northwood and when I went there, I saw Tibet. She looks exactly like Darwin, just a bit bigger, everything reminded me about Darwin,” she said. “I didn’t see Darwin for two years … so when I saw Tibet, I saw a piece of Darwin, and when I realized (Story Book Farm owner Sherri Delaney) wanted to take those two, I thought I didn’t want them to be like Darwin. I wanted to save them from her.”

In November, Story Book Farm launched a crowdfunding campaign to buy Northwood Zoo. The farm had hoped to buy the larger space to house Darwin and a number of other monkeys, including Tibet and Sumo. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Yasmin Nakhuda has two new monkeys. She is seen with the one named Tibet. FACEBOOK





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Life in old dog yet: Crippled collie, left to die in Bosnia, finds new home

Animal rescue.
Courageous canine was found paralyzed in Sarajevo before LeVie family stepped in to save her

An amazing dog story of survival, love and hope has emerged from a small townhouse in Stoney Creek where the LeVie family has given a badly injured collie from Europe a home.

The collie is a street dog from Bosnia named Hope by rescuers, who found her partially paralyzed and in dire health last September on the streets of Sarajevo. She had been hit by a car and left to die.

Kim LeVie learned of Hope through her Facebook animal rescue friend "Sandra" who, through an international effort and funding, was able to keep Hope alive and treated. But she couldn't find someone to adopt her, says LeVie.

"I couldn't stand by," LeVie says as a now healthy looking Hope hops around the living room on her bum — her hind legs hanging limply as she plays with LeVie's other pets, yellow Lab Buddy and Roo the cat, and Ryan, Kim's 12-year-old adopted special-needs son.

"I suggested that she come here where we have better medical care." LeVie says.

International help paid for Hope's nine surgeries in Sarajevo and for her care, travel and all other requirements to get her to Canada and to the LeVies.

When Hope arrived at Pearson early on Christmas Eve, LeVie, Ryan and her other adopted special needs child Shae, 18, were waiting. Husband Blake was still working.

First meeting

"She was in her crate, just looking around with her big eyes, and very slowly, she started sniffing us and kissing us."
Hope's owner Kim Levie

"We all really connected instantly," says LeVie. "She was in her crate, just looking around with her big eyes, and very slowly, she started sniffing us and kissing us."

LeVie works hard to keep Hope happy and healthy, including changing her diapers and attaching her hind legs and backside to a doggy wheelchair so they can go for the walks she enjoys so much.

"As you can see, this is why most people don't want to adopt, because it's a lot of work and you have to have a lot of patience."

The LeVie family has been a blessing for Hope, and Hope has been a miracle for the LeVies — especially for 18-year-old daughter Shae, whose myriad of medical problems are complicated by extreme aggression.

Shae's behaviour was tamed by Hope's arrival, says LeVie.

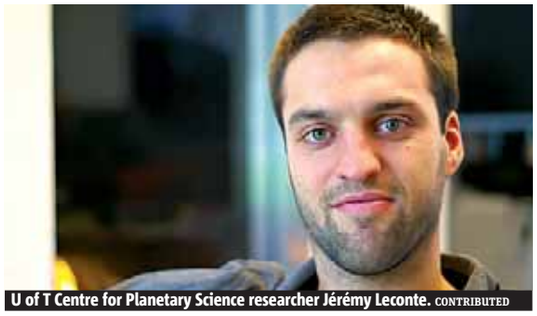
"This little dog coming into our home has completely changed our family. She's brought us closer together.

"She's brought this calmness and peace into our home … there's laughter in our house again."

Hope still has a long road and more surgery ahead. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kim LeVie and her son Ryan are shown with Hope, a rescued dog from Bosnia that had been hit by a car and permanently paralyzed in her back legs. Hope now lives with the LeVies in Stoney Creek. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

U of T spins galaxy quest for another 'Earth'


U of T Centre for Planetary Science researcher Jérémy Leconte. CONTRIBUTED

GILBERT NGABO
gilbert.ngabo@metronews.ca

We're one step closer to proving if planets outside our solar system are inhabitable: So say scientists at University of Toronto, who have been on a galaxy quest.

Research from four U of T astrophysicists shows that, contrary to popular belief, exoplanets may actually be rotating around their stars instead of remaining stationary.

The rotation, they say, gives the planets a day-night cycle, which improves the chances of life as we know it existing there.

All that turning also gives planets the ability to have liquid water under the surface, due to radiation from the stars.

In absence of the rotation and exposure to the stars, water would be permanently trapped in ice, explained lead researcher Jérémy Leconte, a postdoctoral fellow at the university's Centre for Planetary Science.

Progress

"We're getting closer to understanding if we can find a good candidate among exoplanets that can support life and what the conditions will be."
Lead researcher Jeremy Leconte

The duration of day and night on the exoplanets is likely a lot longer than that on Earth, though. A day on those planets could last what we know as weeks or months, he said.

"We're getting closer to understanding if we can find a good candidate among exoplanets that can support life and what the conditions will be," Leconte said. "Maybe I'm too optimistic, but I think in five to 10 years we will have strong clues about that."

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Untangling the Toronto scene

Arts. Wavelength founder to moderate panel of local music industry insiders

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

Put 10 people in a room and you're going to get 10 different opinions. At least that's what Mike Tanner is expecting — and hoping for — as he readies himself for Sunday's Toronto Music Moment panel.

The recently-opened Toronto Music Office, of which Tanner is the head, provides the backdrop for the discussion. "This is an opportunity to have a sounding board for what people are hoping or expecting the city to do," he says.

The office is part of a larger effort being mounted on several fronts to brand and leverage Toronto's music scene. The past few years have seen the formation of the city's Music Industry Advisory Council, a "Music City" alliance with Austin, Tex., and Music Canada's 4479 Toronto.

Yet many local artists and promoters, whose output is the outward face of these efforts, remain in the dark. "People in the music scene had no idea of what was going on," says Jonny Dovercourt, co-founder of the long-running Wavelength concert series.

Dovercourt organized and will moderate the panel, part of the run-up to Wavelength's annual festival, held over Family Day weekend in February. Joining Tanner are promoter Dalton Higgins, journalist and musician Aubrey Jax, Harbourfront's Sergio Elmir and North by North East's Cheryl MacIver. "It's an opportunity to have a public conversation that went beyond the headlines."

The first person to hold the position, Tanner's mandate remains somewhat up in the air — since starting in October he has yet to be given a budget. But he hopes the office can streamline city hall's often "labyrinthine" bureaucracy for musicians and promoters.

Mike Tanner, Toronto's first music sector development officer, hopes to streamline city hall's often "labyrinthine" bureaucracy for musicians and promoters. VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The long-term goal, says Dovercourt is for local artists and promoters to gain a better understanding of how they can work with the city and vice-versa.

"In the past, the indie music scene wasn't mature enough," he says. "Now there is a desire for dialogue."

The Toronto Music Moment panel takes place at 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 25 at Huntclub Studios, 709 College St. Admission is free. See wavelengthtoronto.com for details.

More to see

Wavelength's past, present and future

All of Wavelength's pre-fest activities are at Huntclub Studio, where a festival art show will be up till Feb. 15.

It originated as a marketing initiative for Wavelength's 15th anniversary, but "it's more cost effective to rent a gallery for a month than to run a streetcar ad," says co-founder Jonny Dovercourt, making room for a speaker series and intimate performances.

Posters from each of Wavelength's annual festivals represent the past, while live photos from the past two years are its present. Window installations from Alexandra MacKenzie, a,k.a. Wavelength alum Petra Glynt, and festival graphic designer Derek Ma represent the future.

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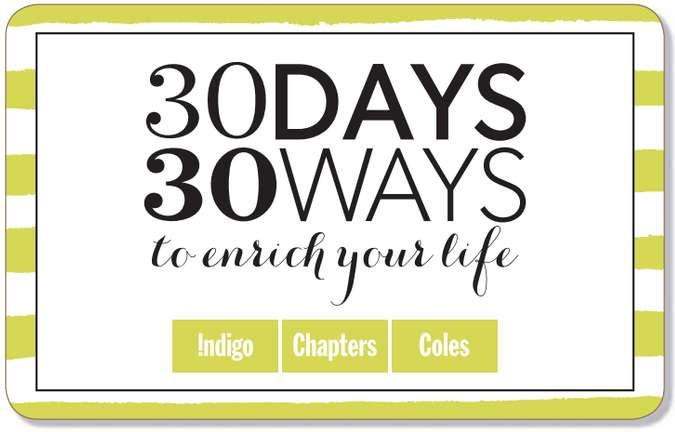

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Travel

Pair used coat to conceal sex act

A flight attendant told the trial of a woman accused of committing an indecent act on a Toronto-to-Halifax flight that she and a man used a coat to cover their laps to fondle each other.

The trial for 25-year-old Alicia Elizabeth Lander got underway Wednesday at Dartmouth provincial court.

Lander has pleaded not guilty to committing indecent acts, assaulting a police officer, committing an act of mischief and causing a disturbance at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport last Jan. 24.

Jason George Chase, 39, was also charged in connection with the incident and pleaded guilty on Wednesday.

The RCMP was called and met Chase and Lander upon arrival in Halifax, with police testifying that Lander was disruptive, verbally abusive, and later caused $400 in damage to an interview room.

The trial will resume March 3. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dangerous-chemicals suspect suffered marital, financial woes

Manhunt ends.
Documents show man with possible U.S. military links was $4.7M in debt

Christopher Phillips, arrested Wednesday after the dramatic overnight evacuation of an Ottawa hotel, has a past that includes an acrimonious split from a former Olympic gymnast and a bankruptcy marked by debts of nearly $4.7 million.

It appears Phillips has links to the U.S. military. Bankruptcy documents say that he received tens of thousands of dollars in "military disability" payments between 2006 and 2008.

Ottawa police arrested Phillips, 42, on the sixth floor of the east-end Chimo Hotel as part of an overnight investigation linked to the evacuation of two areas in Halifax where police found a large quantity of mysterious chemicals — some of which they've described as "volatile" and "dangerous."

Police in Ottawa carefully and quietly evacuated the hotel under cover of darkness before arresting the man without incident Wednesday morning. Phillips has not been charged.

Neither the RCMP nor Ottawa police have identified Phillips — an ophthalmologist by trade — but the manager of his ex-wife said police told her the suspect's identity.

Nick Furris said Shannon Miller, a former Olympic gymnast for the U.S., was told by police that her ex-husband was arrested in the incident.

"Upon hearing the recent news surrounding Christopher Phillips, my prayers immediately go to the safety of those around him," Miller said in a statement.

"I'm thankful that the brave men and women of the Ottawa police department and other law enforcement agencies were able to apprehend him and defuse the situation."

Firefighters attend the scene where a large quantity of unidentified chemicals were found in a residence in Grand Desert, N.S. on Wednesday. Police have not identified the chemicals and an explosive disposals unit, forensic identification experts and hazardous material crews have been called in to investigate. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Phillips and Miller were married in a lavish ceremony in Oklahoma City in June 1999. The nuptials — covered by People magazine and the television show "Extra" — featured many of her teammates from the squad that won the team gold medal at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

The marriage lasted seven years. Miller filed for divorce in May 2004 in Massachusetts, proceedings that dragged on for two years. In 2008 Phillips closed his laser eye surgery business in Seattle and filed for bankruptcy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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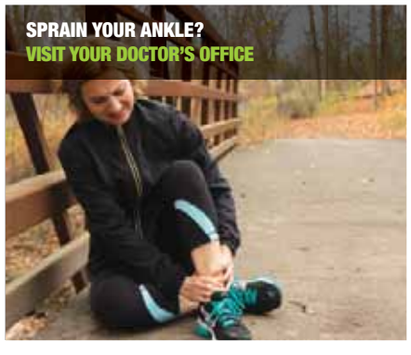

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RCMP to review shooter's history

Mountie death.
Alberta officials hope to uncover if anything could have been done to keep Shawn Rehn off the streets

Const. David Wynn
RCMP/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An Alberta RCMP official says the Mounties will carry out their own review of their interactions with the man who shot two officers.

Assistant Commissioner Marlin Degrand says the force wants to know if there's anything it could have done to help keep Shawn Rehn off the streets.

"We're very concerned about the fact that an individual with his criminal history came into contact with our officers," Degrand said Wednesday at an RCMP news conference.

"And we are actually ... undertaking to unpack all of our interactions with this individual to see if there's anything ... that we could have done that could have helped to avoid him continue on this career path of being a criminal."

Alberta's justice minister also ordered a review Wednesday into how the Crown handled the career criminal.

Jonathan Denis said the review will be done in addition to any fatality inquiry that may be called.

Rehn, 34, was found dead of an apparent suicide in a rural home not far from the casino.

Const. David Wynn, 42, died in hospital Wednesday from a head wound. He never regained consciousness after he was shot.

Auxiliary Const. Derek Bond, 49, faces a long recovery at home after being shot in the arm and torso.

Documents show Rehn was a violent criminal, in and out of jail, for crimes that stretched back to his teenage years.

Rehn's adult criminal record, made public this week by Alberta Justice, details a lengthy list of 57 convictions, starting in April 1999 when he was ordered jailed for two months for theft and breaking and entering.

Parole board documents show Rehn served two federal jail terms as an adult.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Dental student penalized for Facebook 'Like'

Dalhousie University. Man's lawyers surprised to discover why their client was suspended, question disciplinary process

A dentistry student who was part of a Facebook page that contained sexually violent content about female classmates was suspended largely because he clicked the "Like'" button on one suggestive photograph, his lawyers said Wednesday.

Sarah MacIntosh said she was surprised to learn her client, Ryan Millet, was penalized for the action and his Facebook membership to a group linked to Dalhousie University's fourth-year dentistry class.

MacIntosh told a news conference that Dalhousie concluded Millet was guilty of "blatant unprofessionalism" and, as a result, suspended his clinic privileges earlier this month based on six specific posts.

Millet's lawyers learned of the posts at a four-hour disciplinary hearing Tuesday evening, adding the 29-year-old student had not seen two and was active on only one post.

"Clicking the 'Like' button on that photo resulted in his indefinite suspension and has put his degree at Dalhousie and his career on the line," she said.

MacIntosh said the finding was based on his membership to a group in which others posted inappropriate comments.

"If that's the new standard — guilt by association is the new standard for a finding of unprofessionalism — I mean people should be looking at what movies they watched, what parties they might have been at where other people made other inappropriate comments last weekend."

MacIntosh said Millet agrees the posts were offensive.

Millet's legal team, including Bruce MacIntosh, took issue with the disciplinary process

Bruce MacIntosh alleged the university hasn't shared information about the case against Millet, has held closed-door sessions to decide his fate and didn't allow Tuesday's in-camera hearing to be recorded.

The lawyers said they want the school to start the process over with a retired judge or arbitrator to determine which of the 13 members of the Facebook group were guilty of professional misconduct.

A spokesman with the university did not respond to a request for an interview.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Dog walker to be sentenced

Emma Paulsen, a dog walker who pleaded guilty to two charges after the deaths of six dogs in her care, arrives for sentencing at provincial court in Surrey, B.C., on Wednesday. The animals were reported stolen from Paulsen's truck while it was parked at a dog park last May. A search was launched by their owners and the community, but the dogs were found dead in a Fraser Valley ditch DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Travel. Pair used coat to cover sex act: Attendant

A flight attendant told the trial of a woman accused of committing an indecent act on a Toronto-to-Halifax flight that she and a man used a coat to cover their laps to fondle each other.

The trial for 25-year-old Alicia Elizabeth Lander got underway Wednesday at Dartmouth provincial court.

Lander has pleaded not guilty to committing indecent acts, assaulting a police officer, committing an act of mischief and causing a disturbance at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport last Jan. 24.

John Dunn, who was service director for Air Canada Flight 610, testified for the Crown that Lander had asked if she could change seats to sit with her friend after boarding the plane in Toronto.

Dunn testified that an hour into the flight, a passenger told him the people sitting in 14A and 14B were about to join the "mile-high club."

He said he approached Lander and the man and found them with a jacket over their laps but said he could tell what was happening underneath.

He said he asked Lander to get dressed and she eventually pulled up her pants, and went back to her original seat.

Jason George Chase, 39, was also charged in connection with the incident and pleaded guilty on Wednesday.

The RCMP was called and met Chase and Lander upon arrival in Halifax, with police testifying that Lander was disruptive and verbally abusive, and later caused $400 in damage to an interview room.

Lander will be called to the stand when the trial resumes March 3. THE CANADIAN PRESS

‘Army of spinsters’ defies Saudi traditions

Gender equality. A trend of women staying single into their 30s is unnerving the mideast kingdom’s ultraconservatives

Amna Fatani knows she wants a brilliant career and a life different from that of Saudi women of her mother’s generation, who married early, usually to a husband they didn’t choose.

The 27-year-old, studying for her master’s degree at Georgetown University in Washington is part of a growing number of Saudi women choosing to remain single through their 20s and into their 30s.

The trend has ruffled ultraconservatives who see it as an affront to the very foundations of the kingdom, which operates under strict interpretations of Islam and rigid tribal codes in relation to women.

The growing number of single women has alarmed clerics, who have responded by pushing for early marriage and warning of alleged evil consequences of “the army of spinsters,” such as sex outside wedlock.

During a 2005 sermon, the imam of Mecca’s Grand Mosque, Abdul-Rahman As-Sudais, raised an early outcry against “the dangerous phenomenon of life-long spinsterhood,” saying it endangers “the community as a whole.”

Some Saudi media have joined the clerics in handwringing over — as one newspaper put it — “the army of spinsters.” THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saudi Arabia’s clerics and some media members are concerned with a growing number of women who chose not to marry. HASSAN AMMAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Indonesia. No foul play in AirAsia crash, officials say

Indonesia’s top accident investigator said Wednesday that there are no indications of foul play in last month’s crash of an AirAsia jetliner carrying 162 people.

AirAsia Flight 8501 plunged into the Java Sea on Dec. 28 shortly after the pilots asked to climb from 32,000 feet to 38,000 feet to avoid threatening clouds, but were denied permission because of heavy air traffic. No distress signal was received.

The plane was en route from Surabaya, Indonesia’s second-largest city, to Singapore.

National Transportation Safety Committee head Tatang Kurniadi said investigators have downloaded all of the data from the aircraft’s cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder and are analyzing them along with advisers from Airbus, the plane’s manufacturer.

One of the committee’s investigators, Nurcahyo Utomo, said Tuesday that no voices have been detected on the cockpit voice recorder other than those of the pilot and co-pilot, and no explosions were heard.

Transport Minister Ignasius Jonan told Parliament on Tuesday that radar data showed that the plane was climbing at an abnormally high rate — about 6,000 feet a minute — then dropped rapidly and disappeared.

“It is not normal to climb like that; it’s very rare for commercial planes, which normally climb just 1,000 to 2,000 feet per minute,” he said.

“It can only be done by a fighter jet.”

He did not say what caused the plane to climb so rapidly. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

“There is no sign of sabotage in the AirAsia crash.”

Indonesia’s National Transportation Safety Committee head Tatang Kurniadi

Ireland

Grandma guilty of possessing coke for sale at bingo hall

Helen Heaphy’s number came up at the bingo hall. The prize was a trip to court.

The 50-year-old grandmother pleaded guilty Wednesday to two counts of possessing cocaine for sale or supply after Irish police caught her with the narcotic outside a Cork bingo hall.

Cork District Court Judge Leo Malone accepted her lawyer’s plea for clemency citing her family obligations and her possession of a relatively small amount of the drug worth 350 euros ($500). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zambia

Election results postponed amid protests

Zambia’s election commission on Wednesday postponed the announcement of partial results from a presidential vote after complaints from the opposition, whose supporters clashed with police outside the counting centre in the capital, Lusaka.

Police at the counting centre in Lusaka fired tear gas to disperse opposition activists camped outside the building. The election was held to replace President Michael Sata, who died in October after a long illness. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Dow Jones: 17,554.28 (+ 39.05)

TSX
14,560.42
(+ 251.98 points)

OIL
$47.78 US
(+ $1.31 per barrel)

GOLD
$1,293.70 US
(- 50 cents per oz)

Chocolate

Cadbury Creme Egg recipe to stay same in Canada

Chocolate lovers are crying fowl over word that the recipe for the iconic Cadbury Creme Egg is being changed in the U.K.

ISTOCK PHOTO

But Canadian Cadbury fans need not worry: a spokeswoman at the Mondelez Canada office said the Canadian recipe won't be affected.

Creme egg aficionados began protesting on social media when global snacks company Mondelez International announced that this year's batch for the U.K. will be made with "standard cocoa mix chocolate" instead of Dairy Milk chocolate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Brunswick

Three companies face charges over 2013 bird deaths

Three companies now face charges after about 7,500 migrating birds were killed in 2013 when they flew into a flare burning at a natural gas facility in Saint John, N.B.

Canaport LNG LP was charged with three violations in October 2014. Irving Canaport GP Company Ltd. and Repsol Canada Ltd. now also face those charges under the Migratory Birds Convention Act that prevent anyone from depositing a substance harmful to migratory birds. They are also charged with killing Canada warblers under the federal Species at Risk Act. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Streaming TV. Apple shuts out CraveTV app

Read through the tweets posted by CraveTV and Shomi and you'll see suggestions that users might finally get Apple TV apps to access the Canadian streaming services.

If it was up to Bell Media, CraveTV would have launched with an Apple TV app, so users could stream content to their big screen TVs easily.

But Apple didn't allow it to happen.

"I'd love to say we have an app coming on Apple TV but we don't. This is Apple's strategy," said Jon Taylor, vice-president of digital products and strategy for Bell Media, at the CraveTV launch.

While Apple openly welcomes software developers from around the world to create apps for its iPhones and iPads, only a small club of companies have been given access to the Apple TV platform.

Netflix is among them, to the frustration of Bell Media, and Shomi's parent companies Rogers and Shaw.

"They've said (to us), 'We're discussing our international strategy, we'll get back to you' — and that's about all you get from Apple," said Taylor.

Taylor hopes CraveTV and other Bell Media properties will be at the top of the list if and when Apple decides to open its platform up to more companies. At CraveTV's launch in December, Taylor had targeted the early part of this year for integration with Google's Apple TV competitor, the Chromecast. He also said Roku devices will be supported "this year for sure."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AirPlay

CraveTV supports Apple's AirPlay technology, which allows users to beam content from their Apple devices to an Apple TV. Shomi does not support AirPlay, but does have an Xbox 360 app that facilitates streaming on a TV.

Mortgage costs to decline after rate cut: Economists

Debt. Bank's policy change could spur debt-burdened Canadians to borrow even more money

Canadian homeowners have likely gained a reprieve from an expected increase in mortgage rates this year.

Economists expect rates to dip slightly in response to the Bank of Canada's surprise move Wednesday to cut its trend-setting interest rate to 0.75 per cent, from one per cent, to soften the blow of dropping oil prices on the Canadian economy.

"This signals that low interest rates will be with us a while longer," said Avery Shenfeld, chief economist at CIBC World Markets, noting the central bank's rate cut will likely mean a corresponding 0.25 drop in variable, or floating, mortgage rates.

Fixed-rate mortgages are also likely to see a slight decline, as they follow bond yields, which will move lower in response to the rate cut.

The rate cut is expected to lead to decreased mortgage rates which could boost sales and prices of homes in Canada. However, economists fear it may also spur Canadians, who have been criticized previously for holding record levels of debt, to borrow more money. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

However, TD Bank was quick to announce Wednesday that it will maintain its prime interest rate at three per cent, noting that factors beyond the central bank influence its rates.

"Not only do we operate in a competitive environment, but our prime rate is influenced by the broader economic environment, and its impact on credit," the bank said in a statement.

Although cheaper mortgage rates are likely to buoy real estate markets in Central and Atlantic Canada, TD economist Craig Alexander says the impact of oil prices will trump interest rates in Western Canada.

"I think it's inevitable that you're going to see a pullback in sales and a softening in price growth in real estate in oil-rich provinces because, at the end of the day, income growth in those provinces is going to be a lot less," he said.

However, the rate cut may also spur Canadians, who have been criticized previously by the Bank of Canada for holding record levels of debt, to borrow more money.

"I think in the Bank of Canada's eyes right now, it's a lesser of two evils," Shenfeld said. They've shown discomfort with the amount of borrowing Canadians have done, but the economy right now can't afford to shut the tap off on that if we're not getting the lift to growth from the energy sector."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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*1 Make no payments for 90 days when you purchase finance a new unregistered 2015 Toyota vehicle through Toyota Financial Services Canada. Offer applies on approved credit to retail customers who purchase and take delivery by February 2, 2015. The first monthly payment will be deferred for 60 days (until the 90th day of the contract) and finance contracts will be extended accordingly. Interest charges will not accrue during the first 60 days of the contract. After 60 days, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest over the term of the contract.

VOICES

TOUGHER THAN A MUDDER

While events like Tough Mudder sell pain and injury in a fetishized, almost satiric way, the lived experience of the mud runs go far deeper than mere masculine showmanship

EMINA GAMULIN
readers@metronews.ca

Electroshock Therapy, Ring of Fire, Arctic Enema: These sound more like incidents that might have been redacted from the Senate Torture Report than recreational activities taken up on a volunteer basis, but for Tough Mudder participants, that's kind of the point, in both prosaic and profound ways.

With challenges like crawling under barbed wire, running up and down hills for kilometres and swimming completely submerged in ice water, organizers for the already-grueling obstacle course announced recently that they are upping the ante this year by adding a tear gas component.

Margaret MacNeill, a professor who studies the social and cultural aspects of sports and activity through the University of Toronto, says Tough Mudder getting even tougher is a pushback against a risk-averse safety culture that has crept into the rest of our recreational activities.

"Events like Tough Mudder have become popular in a culture where sports are one of the last bastions of masculinity," she says. "I suspect the lack of hesitation to entering — when most adults likely anticipate pain, agonizing eye irritation and potential injury while blinded — has lots to do with masculinity in risk sports and/or using these events to prove 'rugged individualism,' regardless of gender."

She says we can see this when we look at the public debate surrounding hockey concussions. "In the past it was this unfettered culture of risk: You know, kids can take it; boys can take it harder," she says. "Now what we see is that, as people worry about all the long-term health issues, hockey is being renegotiated into a culture of precaution."

Tough Mudder events are rife with militaristic metaphors, amongst others. GETTY IMAGES

Gavin Weedon, a PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia whose research looks at mud running events like Tough Mudder as part of a renaissance of physical culture, agrees Mudder taps into the desire for risk and masculine bravado, but says the practice can also act on a far more profound level. "One of my most interesting findings is that these events act as material infrastructures, and potent metaphor, through which some people confront and overcome physical and emotional traumas sustained beyond the confines of the course."

In other words, perhaps the reason it sounds like torture is because on a personal level, by forcing participants to confront and relive pain in their lives, it can seem close to it. Weedon stays away from the torture metaphor but says many participants have described the practice in therapeutic terms.

"A friend of mine injured her back in a car accident and chronicled her recovery through training for, and participating in, Tough Mudder, alongside friends and family. These aren't the most common stories, perhaps, but they are among the most intriguing."

While Tough Mudder promotes a 'tough guy' image, this isn't necessarily the intended audience. Weedon says the run aims to reach "urban white-collar professionals and young people, especially men, with disposable income and recreational time to do something like this." While all types might show up to events, "white men are consistently well represented."

It is significant then, that the intermingling of growth and pain offered by Mudder and aimed directly at men has no shortage of decidedly feminine metaphors: One event is called Birth Canal, while the tear gas portion, touted as the toughest obstacle yet, has been given the name Cry Baby. And a mudder, of course, is a mother.

Many people also describe these events in torturous terms, but unlike actual torture, it is something people take on voluntarily and comes with great reward, much like childbirth.

And there is no mudder tougher than that.

WHY I'LL NEVER DO A MUD RACE

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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"Hell, no." This is my reaction every time someone says, "You should do Tough Mudder with us next year." No, no, no. Thank you, but no.

I don't hate exercise. I'll join the sweat-your-face-off-then-swoon-in-the-locker-room class at the gym, or run home from work to save the transit fare. I don't balk at pain. I gritted my teeth through days of labour.

But I draw the line at the gruelling army boot camp that is Tough Mudder, because from what I can tell, it's five hours of torture, followed by a flash of joy at the end. The hell-to-joy ratio just doesn't entice me.

I understand that people are driven to test their physical and psychological limits; to be able to boast, "I know what it feels like to get slapped in the face with an electric tendril, go down like a felled tree, then get up and keep going."

But no matter how euphoric it is to cross the finish line arm-in-arm with your battered, bruised and muddy compatriots, I'll still pass. I'll pass on the ice bath, the cleats in the face, the 17 lung-bursting kilometres running up and down a ski hill.

I have no burning need to see if I can tolerate tear gas, shimmy through a slimy narrow tunnel, or run across kerosene-soaked flaming straw. I have no interest in proving I can do these things because, frankly, they sound horrible (and vaguely dangerous). And I don't thrill at doing horrible (and vaguely dangerous) things for fun on a Saturday. So this year, like last, I'll cheer my loved ones from the sidelines (or home, depending on the weather). I'll apply Tiger balm to my husband's destroyed muscles and marvel at his strength and endurance. And I will regret nothing.

BONDING OVER BRAVADO

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
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I signed up for the Tough Mudder last summer because I like pushing myself: Doing something difficult requires a singular focus that my normal busy, multitasking day lacks.

Plus there's the pride thing. "This looks hard, Jess, do you think you can do it?" I ask me. "Ya damn right I can," I answer.

There was also this editor who has an enthusiasm for insane physical feats that is impossible to deny. He helped organize a group of colleagues, of varying levels of fitness, to do it together and agree to stick together, so no one would be left behind. So, it turned out that the Tough Mudder wasn't really about me, or my limits. It was a group bonding thing.

In a big office, you don't really know the people who work in a different department, on a different floor, but after they work together to boost your butt over a mud slicked wall, you do.

When a colleague, friend or stranger on the course sees you at your worst — cold and tired beyond pride, mud-covered, out of breath, falling down, crying — and helps you with dignity, it's hard not to like them. On the Mudder course, there's always another obstacle, and you'll turn around and offer them a hand.

So if it sounds like a good idea know this: Yes, the electric shock thing hurts like hell. The ice bath, not so bad. The obstacles are mostly fun, it's the hills that kill you. As for the tear gas, I don't know. Maybe I'll find out.

And, those psychological studies that show pain promotes bonding — the sort of togetherness soldiers experience in basic training?

They're not wrong.

metro

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Clara Hughes

Bell Let's Talk

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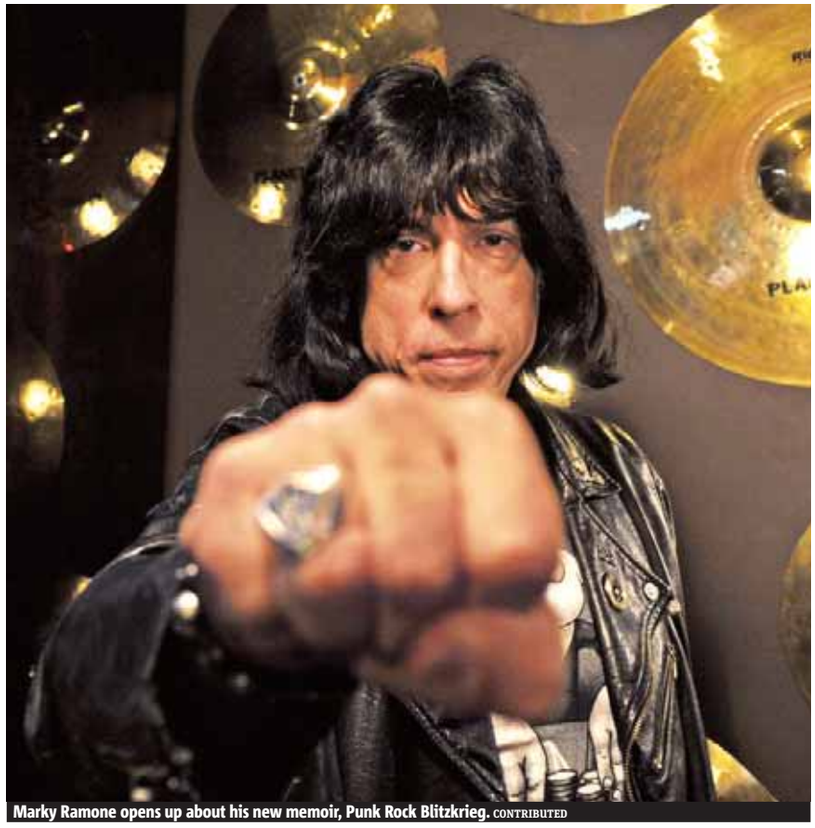
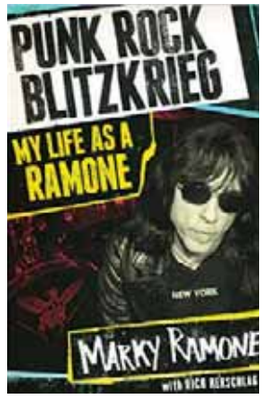
The Road to Ruin and back

Memoir. Marky Ramone chronicles his wild life drumming for the seminal punk band from New York

MARIANNE HAYES
Metro World News in New York



Marky Ramone opens up about his new memoir, Punk Rock Blitzkrieg. CONTRIBUTED



Drummer Marky Ramone may not have been a founding member of the Ramones, but his impact on the band's legacy — and the punk movement as a whole — is hard to deny. Even so, some critics still dismiss him for not being an "original" member of the iconic band.

"Being in the Ramones for 15 years and 1,700 shows, I felt it was time to tell my story," says Marky (whose real name is Marc Bell).

For Bell, that story is being told in a new memoir aptly titled, Punk Rock Blitzkrieg: My Life as a Ramone. Bell admittedly pulls no punches in the book, which he wrote with author Rich Herschlag.

"It is the most comprehensive book out there about the band," says Bell.

Readers can expect a fly-on-the-wall take of what it was like to be alongside the Ramones during the height of the cult phenomenon known as punk rock. The book covers everything from hanging out with other punk luminaries at the legendary CBGBs, to observing the famously tense relationship between Joey and Johnny Ramone.

"The book reads a little like fiction and a little like a travel log," says Herschlag, who compares the feel of the memoir to Jack Kerouac's On the Road. "We wanted to make people feel like they were there."

According to Herschlag, the book provides a more intimate snapshot of the band. For example, the fact that Joey Ramone had obsessive-compulsive disorder is no secret. But few know the extent to which his OCD affected the band as a whole. Herschlag recalls one story from the book where Bell talks about Joey's compulsive need to tap things.

"After their 1980 album End of the Century, they flew to England, and (Joey) wouldn't get off the plane because he wanted to fly back to tap something in New York," says Herschlag.

Other times, the band would be late for gigs because of Joey's need to run across the street to tap a curb. According to Herschlag, this only fueled the palpable tension between Johnny and Joey.

Personal rivalries aside, the book also takes a hard look at Bell's battle with alcoholism, which ultimately led to his departure from the band for four years during the '80s. Herschlag says that Bell's journey to sobriety was a powerful one.

Herschlag's personal connection to the Ramones is a unique story in itself. Growing up in Forest Hills, Queens in the 1970s, Herschlag was coincidentally raised in the same building as a construction worker-slash-musician named John Cummings (aka Johnny Ramone).

"At the time, I was like 10 years old and throwing water balloons off the roof," says Herschlag, who remembers leather-clad band members frequently coming in and out of Johnny's apartment. "It became known, even before they released an album, that there was this rock band in our building."

The fact that Herschlag landed a gig co-writing Marky Ramone's memoir decades later was completely serendipitous. Either way, he's thrilled to be bringing Bell's stories to life. There are even talks of an in-the-works reality show that would document what the aging punk rocker's everyday life is like these days.

After disbanding in 1996, the Ramones were later inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2002. The punk pioneers also received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011. Today Bell serves as a global ambassador for punk rock with his band, Marky Ramone's Blitzkrieg. The group travels everywhere from Russia to Vietnam playing Ramones songs to a new generation of loyal fans.

"I'm the last link to the last four (Ramones)," says Bell. "My aim is to continue to play the music live because I feel the songs are too good not to be played."

Soprano is willing to sing for her supper

Night out. Opera singer Sasha Djihania talks Mozart's Don Giovanni over steak tartare in Yorkville

Follow along as Andrew takes an intriguing person out for a night on the town, visiting some of Toronto's newest hot spots and offering tips on how you can create your own date night.

DOBBER DATES
Andrew John Virtue Dobson
dobbernationloves.com
@dobbernation

I was looking forward to going on a date with soprano Sasha Djihania who is taking on the role of Zerlina in the Canadian Opera Company's Don Giovanni.

We met in Yorkville at the Windsor Arms and were immediately whisked into the belly of Chef Jean-Pierre Challet's Ici Bistro kitchen. We spent the next two hours indulging in a fine French feast via the hotel's new Chef's Table, one of the city's most playful private dining rooms. Perched at an ostrich-leather wrapped booth, we enjoyed a perfect view of Challet's bustling kitchen while nibbling our way through steak tartare and foie gras-adorned duck magret.

Djihania's enthusiasm for food, opera and Toronto is infectious, "this menu is amazing I want to eat it all!" she exclaims before launching into a mighty monologue about her love for the city. Djihania moved to Toronto from her native Montreal in August 2012.

"I live in the Village and love brunching at Smith. During the summer I walk my cute Cavalier King Charles through Trinity Bellwoods. I adore Queen West's hipster chic boutiques and cafes. Torontonians have such great style."

Djihania can't help but compare our feast to her upcoming show, "during the production's instrumental opening, the curtains of the theatre rise and the audience watches a beautiful dining room come to life. Maids and valets arrive on stage preparing for a sumptuous meal."

Sasha Djihania enjoys her meal at Ici Bistro, inside the Windsor Arms in Yorkville. ANDREW DOBSON/METRO

Mozart's Don Giovanni originally premiered in 1787 and has been lauded as one of the best operas ever written. This winter the COC presents Russian director Dmitri Tcherniakov's controversial interpretation of the classic tale featuring the world's most infamous womanizer.

Originally launched in Aix-en-Provence, France, the production caused a stir in the international opera community as the director re-imagined roles for a modern audience. Djihania explains, "he altered relationships between the characters making them more connected by incorporating them into a family. We don't have an aristocracy anymore and Tcherniakov wants today's audience to appreciate the story of Don Giovanni and has re-imagined the tale by presenting a modern, rich family obsessed with keeping up appearances."

Djihania concludes the meal by sharing how thrilled she is to have the opportunity to work with the acclaimed director. "He has his mind set on defining a psychological journey for each character. He makes his opera singers act as actors, not singers, which makes for an engaging and entertaining theatrical experience!"

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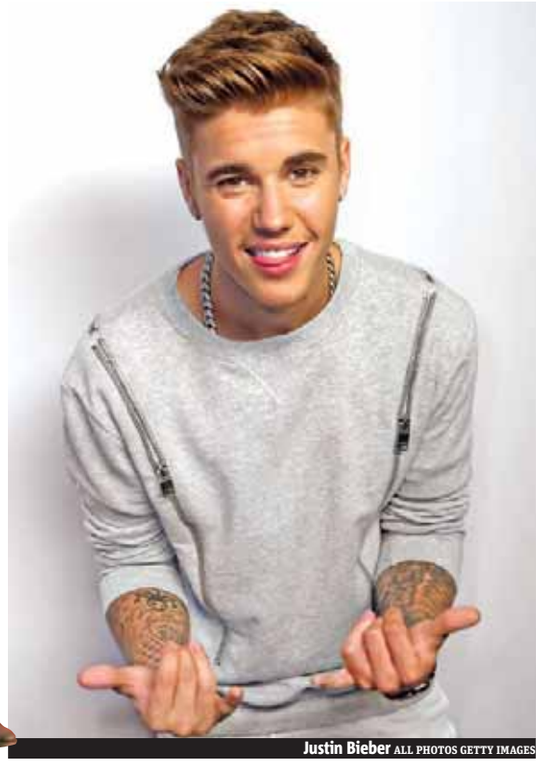
Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Justin Bieber ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Won't roasting Justin Bieber just be a typical day for him?

When Comedy Central took over roasting duties from the Friars Club, it kept the original spirit of lampooning legends toward the end of their careers. Well, they're putting that tradition behind them with the announced roast of: Justin Bieber.

"Justin has been asking us for a few years to roast him, and we just kept telling him to go create more source material first. We're thrilled he listened," says Comedy Central exec Kent Alterman.

Maybe they were waiting until he could (legally) get liquored up for the televised take-down, as the roast will take place shortly after his 21st birthday.

But this all begs the question: Isn't roasting Bieber redundant, considering any and all coverage of him over the past few years?

Jenner drops home school for her career

Apparently, one of the perks of being home-schooled is you can just up and quit it without the local government getting persnickety.

That's exactly what Kylie Jenner, the youngest and most vulnerable of the Jenner-Kardashian brood, did, insisting that getting an education was too much of a distraction.

"Kylie quit home-schooling a few months ago. She told her mom it was getting 'in the way' of her career, and that she wanted to focus her energies on building her personal brand and making money," a source tells Life & Style of the 17-year-old.

And apparently mom and manager Kris Jenner "gave in," which makes sense since she's totally into the whole "building a personal brand and making money" thing.

Kris, in fact, "feels the girls are smart and savvy and they don't need a piece of paper to show that."

Well, as long as she's feeling it, who are we to judge?

Kylie Jenner

Don't tell Kim Jong-un: The Interview is on Netflix

Well, that was fast. If your biggest complaint about The Interview coming to VOD right away at Christmas was you didn't want to pay to watch it in your home, you're in luck — as long as you're a Netflix subscriber.

The controversial film that nearly destroyed Sony is coming to the streaming service this weekend. The film has raked in more than $40 million in digital sales in the past month plus $6 million from its very limited theatrical run. That pushes its gross return past its $44-million production budget, but just barely.

James Franco and Seth Rogen in The Interview

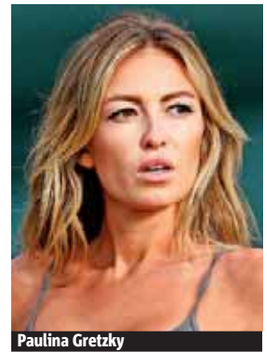
The Great One is a grandpa as Paulina and her fiancé welcome a baby boy

Paulina Gretzky gave birth to a son on Monday. Her fiancé, PGA golfer Dustin Johnson, released a statement saying, "Paulina and I are happy to announce the arrival of our baby boy, who was born in Los Angeles on Monday morning. Both Paulina and the baby are healthy, resting comfortably and in great spirits! We sincerely appreciate the outpouring of love and support we have received and plan to release further details in the coming days!"

No word on the name, but perhaps that's part of the "further details."

The pregnancy was announced in September.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Paulina Gretzky

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The fashion show must go on

Style. Canadian Fashion Police panellist Brad Goreski dishes on style, the stars and his newest TV gig

Long before he was dressing celebrities for the red carpet, Canadian stylist Brad Goreski credits trail-blazing homegrown series Fashion Television and host Jeanne Beker for helping nurture his budding interest in style.

"When I was a kid watching TV every Sunday night, my dad would kind of cringe when he heard the theme song of Fashion TV come on, but I watched it religiously," recalled Goreski of the now-defunct series which aired for 27 years.

"She was really my window into the world of fashion. I learned so much from her and for her dedication to reporting the latest in fashion, getting right to the designer, asking them the important questions. That was really the beginning."

The Port Perry, Ont., native said his family was also a key source of support, as he recalled wearing "crazy outfits" to school and being obsessed with fashion magazines.

"Growing up in a small town and encouraged to be who I was and to really cultivate those skills and not try to shut them down has led me to be able to do the things that I've become very successful at — and that, to me, is such a gift," said Goreski.

Goreski has styled notable leading ladies including Jessica Alba, Noomi Rapace, Christina Ricci and Demi Moore. At the recent Golden Globes, he styled Downton Abbey star and best supporting actress winner Joanne Froggatt in a strapless, embellished Marchesa gown, and also dressed actress Jenna Dewan Tatum (wife of Foxcatcher star Channing Tatum) in a buttery yellow Carolina Herrera creation.

The Los Angeles-based Goreski is now adding fashion critique to his repertoire, dishing on and dissecting celebrity style as the newest panellist on Fashion Police, which airs Mondays at 9 p.m. ET on E!. Goreski and new show host Kathy Griffin join series vets Kelly Osbourne and Giuliana Rancic on the four-member panel.

A recent episode devoted to assessing styles from the Golden Globe Awards was the first since the death of host Joan Rivers last September at age 81 following complications from surgery.

Goreski said this season will feature 17 episodes and will mostly be built around red-carpet events like the upcoming Screen Actors Guild Awards, Grammys and Oscars. He said they also plan to bring back past segments that fans love in addition to introducing new ones into the mix.

"The heart of the show and the legacy Joan put in place is still there. We want to honour that, but we also want to bring a fresh perspective," said Goreski.

"The show must go on, and I think that people can still expect very honest commentary and critique of what's happening on the red carpet. Lots of laughs."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

One stylish set

A little Goreski goes a long way

Goreski says he sees Fashion Police as a prime opportunity to combine his expertise as a stylist and knowledge acquired over years in fashion with his love of entertainment. He also seeks to share insight with viewers about why he sees a particular look as a hit or miss.

"I know how much work goes into getting a celebrity ready for the red carpet, and so I never really want to come off as being hypercritical ... just saying: 'The look doesn't look great.' ...

"That's what I hope I can bring every week: lots of humour and lots of fun, but also maybe help people see things and actually develop a critical eye as opposed to just saying: 'Oh, I thought she looked terrible.'"

Quoted

"The heart of the show and the legacy Joan put in place is still there. We want to honour that, but we also want to bring a fresh perspective."

Brad Goreski on the late Joan Rivers

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FREE CONSULTATION

PATRIOTIC PARKAS

It's only fitting that we should make it through a Canadian winter by bundling up in Canadian-designed coats. And plenty of homegrown parka-makers are here to help us out

MELISSA DUNNE
for Metro

Parkas made in the Great White North are currently hotter than a fresh cup of joe from Tim Hortons.

On a bone-chilling afternoon a line of cars waits to park at high-end lifestyle retailer Sporting Life. Inside, most shoppers make a beeline for the racks of Canada Goose parkas. Rival made-in-Canada brands like Moose Knuckles also attract interest. Many customers will eventually get in line to shell out hundreds (and sometimes north of $1,000) for a down-filled coat.

Despite the hefty price tags everyone from students to seniors has bought in.

So have retailers. At Sporting Life, Canada Goose products are always front-and-centre at its midtown Toronto store, even in the middle of July. The Ontario chain has recently grown and is set to expand west to Calgary next year.

Canada Goose, which started in 1957, has taken celebrating Canadian connections to new heights. Our country is in its name and a map of the Arctic is on its logo. The brand may have finally hit peak Canadian earlier this season when it teamed up for a second time with Drake for a capsule collection.

Branding parkas as symbols of Canadiana chic has paid off. Canada Goose has opened a new 96,000-square-foot factory in Toronto, doubling its previous production capacity, and it expanded its Winnipeg facility last fall.

"In terms of cold weather apparel, we are a world leader," says Marilyn McNeil-Morin, chair of the School of Fashion Studies at George Brown College.

We Canucks are known for knowing how to stay warm in cold climates. Centuries before Canada Goose hit it big, Canadian companies such as Hudson's Bay Company were famous for selling furs, McNeil-Morin points out.

These days most of the winter gear we buy, from toques to coats to boots, is made somewhere else. Buying parkas actually still made in our home and native land is an easy way to show others the depth of our true patriot love.

"We like supporting local jobs and our manufacturing economy," adds McNeil-Morin.

The fashion expert also notes that the quality of coats made here is usually higher than those made overseas.

We are clearly buying the Buy Canada message.

You can't hit the ice rink or the coffee shop without seeing a sea of red-and-white logos. The ubiquity has bred a backlash. Activists have called the parka-makers that use real fur and feathers "cruel." And some of us would rather shiver than wear what everyone else is wearing.

Upstarts have cropped up for the hipster set looking for a homegrown alternative. More subtle brands like OSC Cross have obviously taken a few pages from the Canada Goose patriotic playbook. OSC has named many of its coats after some of our cities and towns, such as the St. John's coat.

Parkas made at home are now both "cool and practical," says McNeil-Morin. What could be more Canadian than that, eh?

Made for Antarctica

-30C+

Canada Goose's Expedition parka was originally developed for scientists working in research facilities at McMurdo station in Antarctica. It is field tested for the coldest places on Earth, according to its website.

6 other games in town

Johnny Yiu

Johnny Yiu started in 2004. Its parkas are made in Toronto. The women's Adalyn parka is $880 and is filled with goose down. At select retailers and johnnyyiu.com.

OSC Cross

OSC Cross grew out of the Outdoor Survival Canada brand in 2012. Its parkas are made in Toronto. The men's St. John's parka is $670 and contains goose and duck down. At select retailers and osccross.com.

Quartz Nature

Quartz Nature started in 1997. Its parkas are made in Saint-Hyacinthe, Que. The women's Éliane parka is $699 and is filled with Canadian down. Find retailers or buy online at quartznature.com.

Cold Manufactured (CMFR)

CMFR started in 2010. Its parkas are made in Winnipeg. The men's Gormley parka is $795 and filled with white duck. At select Sporting Life stores. Find other retailers at cmfrcanada.com.

The Wild North

The Wild North started in 2014. Its parkas are made in Oakville, Ont. The women's Lila parka is $900 and made mainly of wool and filled with down. At Deluxe Boutique in Toronto and thewildnorthapparel.com.

Moose Knuckles

Moose Knuckles started in 2007. Its parkas are made in Winnipeg. The women's Stirling parka is $795 and contains down insulation. At select Sporting Life stores. Find other retailers at mooseknucklescanada.com.

Trends Report

A lash glue with natural ingredients

Finding cosmetics that are both natural and safe is a difficult task, and Emily Lyons can attest to that. The Toronto-based owner of a media agency says she often hears models complaining of swollen eyes and eye lids, and was disgusted to discover the lash glue they were using contained the chemical formaldehyde.

"A lot of the ingredients in these glues are actual confirmed carcinogens that are being applied to your eye," she says.

Thus the idea for True Glue was hatched.

The Canadian-made adhesive was launched in December 2014, and can be purchased online at true-glue.com at a cost of $9.99 for a small tube, $14.99 for a medium tube and $24.99 for a large tube.

FOLLOW TRENDS REPORT COLUMNIST IRENE KUAN ON TWITTER: @METROIRENEK AND ON INSTAGRAM: @KUANIRENE

Keep these names in mind as menswear moves to Paris

Style. Who are the designers to watch during Fall-Winter fashion week in France

After London and Milan, Paris is now the city hosting the world's leading designers for the presentation of the Fall-Winter 2015-2016 menswear collections. Between conspicuous absences and exceptional presentations, here are the names to look out for ahead of this edition of fashion week, which opened yesterday and will include 50 runway shows.

Stylist Umit Benan is among the up-and-coming designers to watch over the next few years. GABRIEL BOUYS / AFP

Rising stars

While there are no newcomers to this edition of Paris fashion week, there are certainly a few talented young designers and labels likely to claim more of the limelight over the coming years. Some of them even seem poised to become the next Hermès, Louis Vuitton, Dior, Saint Laurent or Lanvin.

This is the case namely of Officine Générale and Umit Benan, two labels that first entered the official men's fashion week schedule in January 2014.

Founded in January 2012 by Pierre Mahéo, Officine Générale is constantly playing up contrasts, artfully combining more traditional tailoring with workwear and military-influenced styles, all while using high-end fabrics such as poplin and chambray. With around 60 sales points worldwide, mainly in France and the US, the label is undeniably popular and continues to expand.

Another designer fond of contrasts, Umit Benan founded his eponymous label in 2009 and has since earned unanimous praise. Capable of proving that sportswear and refined style can go hand in hand, Umit Benan also stands out for his original use of luxurious materials. His is another young label that is already beginning to emerge as an essential player on the French fashion scene.

The two brands will present their new collections on Sunday, January 25.

AFP

Cifonelli in the spotlight

- Sometimes the leap from bespoke tailoring to ready-to-wear isn't such a daunting one. That's what the men's couture house Cifonelli will prove this year when it presents within the official schedule for the first time. While the luxury brand already presented a ready-to-wear capsule collection last June, its first complete ready-to-wear line will debut this week, marking a turning point in Cifonelli history.
- All eyes will be on the Club de la Chasse et de la Nature in Paris on Sunday, Jan. 25.

Canadian street style

Name: Bianca

Age: 22

Occupation: Co-founder/designer at Kastor & Pollux

What she's wearing
Joe fresh hat, H&M sweater, Le Chateau coat, Forever 21 skirt, Miista boots.

Her inspiration
"My inspiration comes from everything going on around me!"

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Menswear model

Beckham and H&M tie-up again this spring

David Beckham CONTRIBUTED

Once again, Swedish retail chain H&M has invited former soccer player David Beckham to lend his name to a new collection. Modern Essentials selected by David Beckham will be available March 5. After collaborating on the David Beckham Bodywear line, H&M and the sports icon are extending their partnership with a new menswear collection. Victoria's husband hand-picked his favourite items from H&M's Modern Essentials line for the new tie-up.

AFP

Fish and chips has some competition

Lunch. This Salt-and-Pepper Squid and Chips recipe is a unique alternative to traditional haddock or cod

This recipe serves four. BRETT STEVENS

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp dried chilli flakes
- 1 tbs whole black peppercorns
- 1 tbs Szechuan peppercorns (available from Asian food shops)
- Seasalt
- 3/4 cup (100 g) rice flour
- 1 kg small squid
- Peanut oil, to deep-fry
- 3 large potatoes (about 800 g), peeled, cut into matchsticks (a mandoline is ideal for this)
- Lime wedges and aioli* (garlic mayonnaise, which is available at selected supermarkets and delis), to serve

1. Preheat the oven to 160 C.

2. Dry-roast the chilli, peppercorns and Szechuan pepper with 2 tablespoons of sea salt in a wok over medium heat for 2-3 minutes until fragrant. Grind to a powder in a spice grinder or mortar and pestle. Place in a bowl with the flour and mix well. Set aside.

3. Cut the tentacles away from the squid tubes, discarding beak. Open out the tubes and clean, then lightly score the insides of the tubes in a criss-cross pattern. Cut into bite-sized pieces.

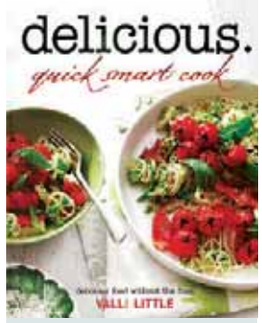
4. Half-fill a wok or deep-fryer with oil and heat to 160 C. Fry the chips in the oil for 2 minutes until almost cooked, then remove and drain on paper towel. Toss the chips in half the flour mixture and set aside.

5. Increase oil to 190 C. Toss the squid tubes and tentacles in remaining flour mixture and shake off excess. Fry, in batches, for 2 minutes until crisp and golden. Drain well and keep warm in the oven while you finish the chips. Return the chips to the oil for a further 1-2 minutes until crisp and golden, then drain well.

6. Serve the salt-and-pepper squid and chips with lime wedges and aioli. RECIPES FROM QUICK SMART COOK BY VALLI LITTLE. PUBLISHED IN CANADA BY HARPERCOLLINS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Cookbook of the Week

Make it snappy!



While you may not always want to judge a book by its cover, this time go right ahead. True to its cover and title, Quick Smart Cook by Valli Little is packed with ideas when you're short on time and dishes that help to reduce the stress of entertaining.

The book features 120 recipes and photography in an easy-to-follow format. Whether you're a novice looking for easy techniques or a seasoned cook seeking new ideas, the book will help to inspire your culinary repertoire.

Among the recipes are Panzanella Salad, Thai Lobster Curry, Maple-Glazed Duck, Moroccan Cottage Pie, Carrot Cake and Swedish Apple Cake. METRO

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Legal Matters

HST rebate and condominiums

I have bought a new condo that is currently in interim occupancy and I am living in the unit. The purchase price is $399,000. If I were to lease it out on a 1-month rental contract before final closing, will I be able to claim the full HST when I file my income tax return? Alternatively, if the rental lease is entered into after the final closing, will this create any tax implications?

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

The idea behind the government providing an HST New Housing Rebate to purchasers of new homes and condos is to encourage housing industry growth for people buying new homes. It is not meant as a subsidy for those who purchase property as an investment; either to rent out or sell at a profit.

So, if you rent the property before the final closing, you are not eligible for the HST rebate and you will have to pay this to the builder on closing.

There is, however, a New Residential Rental Property Rebate that is available if the first occupant of a new home is a tenant. This takes the place of the New Housing Rebate. You should check with the Canada Revenue Agency for further information.

In your case, because you have already occupied the property, you are not eligible for the Residential Rental Property Rebate. Furthermore, if you were to rent the condo shortly after the final closing, you may be caught up by Canada Revenue Agency because you need to claim the property as your principal residence and live in it for a period of time to qualify for the New Housing Rebate. Again, check with C.R.A. with respect to their requirements.

Follow Jeff Cowan on Twitter @Cowan_Law or on the website cowanlaw.ca, or email him at jeff@cowanlaw.ca.

T.O. swims into view from condo pools

Deluxe amenity.
Unique pools offer sky-high views of the city

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

YC Condos' infinity pool offers spectacular southern views of the city from three sides. CONTRIBUTED

It's a given these days that every condo offers a swimming pool. Some condos have super-pools, where recreation meets art and design. The infinity edge pool is the new trend here, with the water like a sheet of glass that seems to extend into the horizon or "infinity." The effect is achieved by the water flowing over the edges of the pool.

YC Condos by Canderel boasts one of the tallest infinity pools in the Western Hemisphere. The $5 million pool named Aqua 66, is located on the 66th floor of the tower, is 60 feet wide and features a three-sided sweeping view of the city to the south.

"You can swim right up to the edge and almost touch the CN Tower," remarks Riz Dhanji, Canderel's VP of sales and marketing.

"My inspiration for this was the pool at the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore," says Dhanji. "We wanted to make it feel like a spa oasis up there; that you're floating off the edge of the building."

The pool was designed by Diego Burdi of internationally renowned interior design firm Burdifilek. Dhanji says that these pools are expensive to build and require a lot of extra engineering.

"There's an entire floor of mechanical, there are a lot of structural elements to carry a pool, especially at that height. It would not have been done a number of years ago, but as buildings get taller, there's an opportunity to do something unique."

Over at the Trump Residences, there's a heated, indoor aquatic facility located on the 32nd floor that offers residents a natural salt water, infinity-edge pool spanning 65 feet with a spa tub and waterfall feature, overlooking Toronto's skyline.

The pool lounge is reminiscent of a classical Roman spa. "It's Italian marble so it's very high quality and the designs that you see are matched very well. It's very difficult to get sized pieces of marble like that and have them match up," says Neil Labatte, president and CEO of Talon International Development, the building's owner.

The glass-walled pool at E Condos at Yonge and Eglinton. CONTRIBUTED

If you've been to Ripley's Aquarium, then you'll have an idea of the remarkable pool at Bazis' uptown E Condos, with its clear-walled tank exposing a view of the city from underneath the water. This architectural marvel occupies two upper floors of the building with cascading stone steps that descend into the water from the well-appointed pool lounge above.

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The party room at Downtown Erin Mills. CONTRIBUTED

Great Erin Mills location

Meet the condo

- **What.** Downtown Erin Mills
- **Builder.** Pemberton Group
- **Location.** Eglinton Avenue West in Mississauga
- **Building.** An 18-storey tower with 198 units
- **Sizes.** From 655 to 1,390 sq. ft.
- **Pricing.** From the $300,000s to $672,000
- **Suites.** One bedroom, one bedroom plus den, two bedroom, two bedroom plus den, three bedrooms
- **Occupancy.** Spring 2016
- **Website.** downtownerinmills.com

Project overview

Downtown Erin Mills is the first 18-storey tower within Pemberton's new, master-planned community. Consisting of two towers that will rise up from lushly landscaped green spaces, the condos are conveniently located across from Erin Mills Town Centre.

Location and transit

Downtown Erin Mills is located on Eglinton Avenue West near Erin Mills Parkway. There will be easy access to Mississauga Transit, GO bus, and the Streetsville GO rail station. Commuters are close to highways 403, 407 and 401.

Building amenities

The lobby will have a 24-hour concierge service. A two-storey recreational centre will be shared with the second tower. Residents will enjoy a large indoor pool and poolside retreat with saunas and steam rooms. There's also a cardio fitness studio and yoga area.

In the neighbourhood

Residents will be steps from Erin Mills Town Centre with more than 180 shops, restaurants and services. Within the neighbourhood are schools, parks, recreation facilities, theatres, and the Credit Valley Hospital.

Special report

Housing market challenges

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta, facebook.com/bildgta, and bildblogs.ca.

A special report released by TD Economics earlier this week confirmed many of the challenges for the GTA's housing market previously addressed in this column.

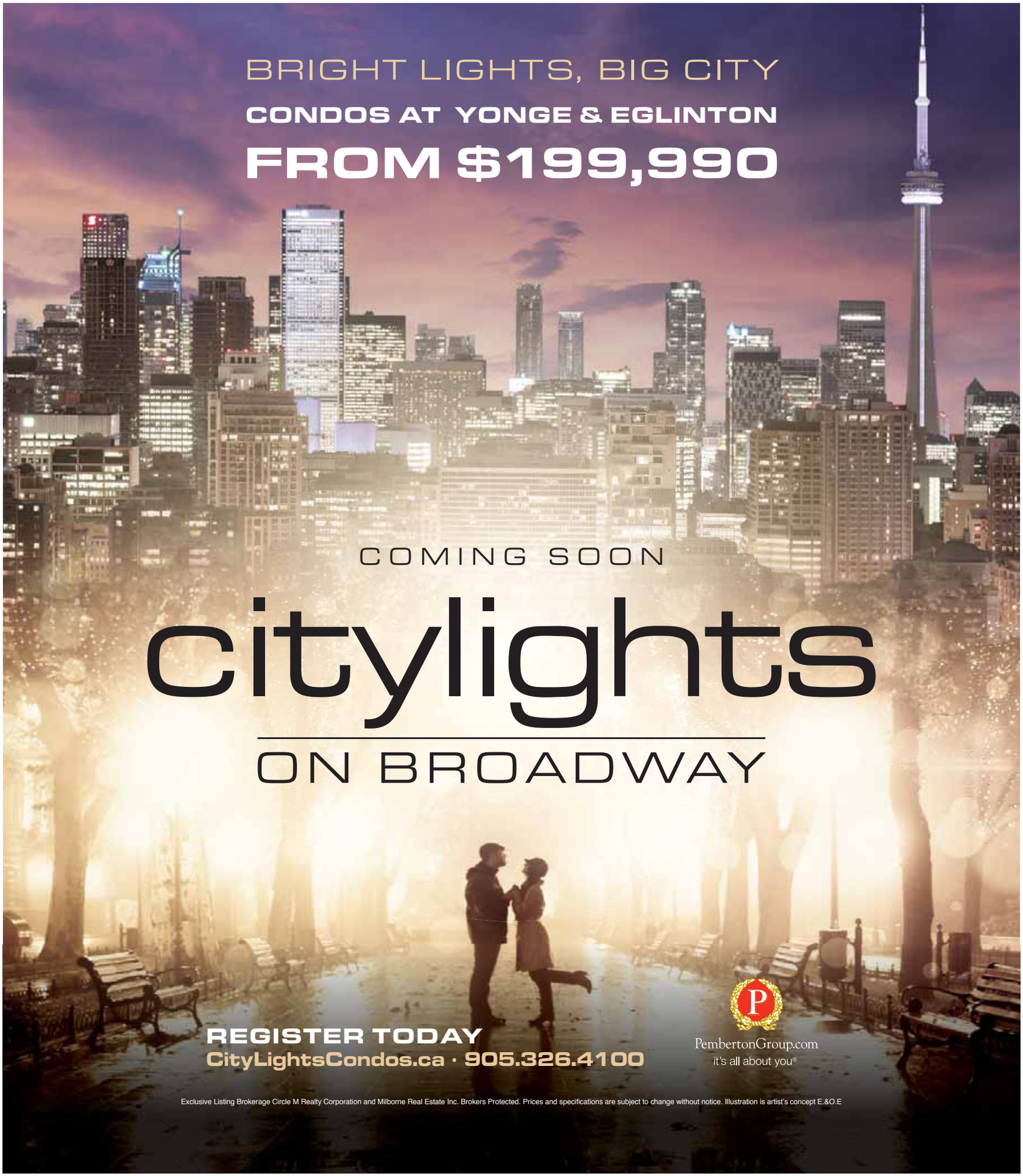
The report concluded that while the strong housing market in the GTA over the past decade has benefitted many in the region, it drew attention away from some growing issues, chief among them deteriorating affordability, an increasingly weak diversity of housing choice and a transportation system that is struggling to keep up.

"Higher land costs and restrictive government regulations that have stretched out development project time lines to as much as seven years have made it increasingly difficult to supply housing at an affordable cost across the GTA," reads the report.

It states that rising costs and other incentives have not only tilted new development in the GTA towards condo towers, but to shrinking unit sizes. The focus of supply on small multi-residential units has resulted in growing price premiums for both townhouses and single-detached units across the region, contributing to poorer housing choice and reducing mobility of residents.

TD Economics suggest that the most visible challenges are in transit, where an inadequate regional system has led to growing congestion and costs in terms of foregone productivity. Among the solutions put forth in the report is to strengthen and better align housing policies.

"Addressing these challenges through a more collaborative regional approach will be critical to securing economic, social and environmental prosperity in the future," the report concludes.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Pull out all the stops with these gems

Now that holiday decor is gone, I feel the need to bring a fresh sparkle to my place. Sometimes the easiest way to change the look of a kitchen cabinet, bedroom dresser or dressing room drawer is to add fashionable jewellery of the hardware kind. It's an inexpensive way to give new life to an old piece of furniture or boring cupboard doors. These jewel-like knobs gleam with possibilities.

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Crystal clear

Look into your crystal ball. Amerock's Vintage Crystal/ Brass Knob, $16.50 special order, HomeDepot.ca

Double agate

Two halves work together. Agate & Brass Cabinet Pulls, $49/set of 2, WestElm.com

Amber alert

Traditional Amber Glass Knob, $15, RestorationHardware.com

Bolt from the blue

Water blue in a modern square shape. Square-Cut Glass Knob, $5, UrbanOutfitters.com

Jagged little pull

No two are exactly the same. Crown Quartz Knob, $24 each, Anthropologie.com

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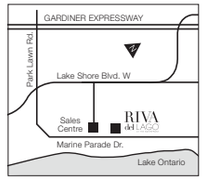

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Raptors outmuscled by Grizzlies down the stretch

Raptors centre Jonas Valanciunas, left, tries to score while under pressure from Grizzlies big men Marc Gasol and Zach Randolph on Wednesday night in Memphis.
The Raptors got a double-double from Valanciunas (12 points, 10 rebounds) and 20 points, eight rebounds and three assists from Kyle Lowry, but were outmatched by Gasol's 26 points, seven rebounds and five assists and Randolph's 19 points and 13 boards as Memphis won 92-86.
BRANDON DILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leafs capitulate to Karlsson's Senators

Roman Polak, left, James Reimer and the rest of the Leafs allowed three goals in the first period on Wednesday night in Ottawa. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL. Ottawa captain notches two as Toronto falls into all-star break in downward spiral

Erik Karlsson scored twice to lead the Ottawa Senators to a 4-3 win over the struggling Toronto Maple Leafs Wednesday night.

Mike Hoffman and Mika Zibanejad also scored for the Senators (19-18-9) while Craig Anderson stopped 37 shots.

David Clarkson, Nazem Kadri and James van Riemsdyk scored for the Leafs (22-23-3), who head into the all-star break on a six-game losing skid. James Reimer made 22 saves and lost for just the second time in his career at Canadian Tire Centre (8-2-0).

Toronto made things interesting for the 18,894 on hand as Kadri scored a power-play goal at 2:36 of the third period. Kadri took a pass from Morgan Rielly and beat a screened Anderson to make it 3-2.

The Leafs did their best to score the equalizer, but were unable to create any real solid scoring chances, and with less than five minutes remaining in regulation, Karlsson scored his second of the night to make it 4-2.

Van Riemsdyk scored at 18:37, but Toronto was unable to complete the comeback.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On Wednesday

4	3
Senators	Maple Leafs

CFL

Hufnagel named coach of the year

The CFL's best regular-season record and a Grey Cup championship have earned John Hufnagel his second Annis Stukus Trophy.

Hufnagel was named the CFL's coach of the year Wednesday in voting conducted by the Football Reporters of Canada, receiving 43 of the 65 ballots cast.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soccer

U.S. Soccer suspends Solo

Goalkeeper Hope Solo has been suspended from the U.S. women's national team for 30 days and won't participate in matches next month in Europe.

U.S. Soccer did not specify the reason for the suspension, announced Wednesday night. It comes after the arrest of her husband, former Seattle Seahawks tight end Jerramy Stevens, earlyMonday on suspicion of driving under the influence.

Solo was in the car when Stevens was pulled over in Manhattan Beach, California. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

"I don't play this game for money, but yet at the same time, when you have an offer like that, it just makes you go, 'Wow.'"

Pitcher Max Scherzer who was introduced in Washington on Wednesday after signing a $210-million, seven-year contract with the Nationals.

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Bouchard puts a spin on post-match interview

Australian Open. Canadian star obliges an unusual request by executing her best twirl after second-round win

Eugenie Bouchard's jaw dropped a little and her eyes went wide when the male presenter conducting her on-court interview at the Australian Open made an unusual request: "Can you give us a twirl?"

"A twirl?" the 20-year-old Canadian asked.

"A twirl, like a pirouette, here you go," coaxed her white-haired interviewer on Margaret Court Arena, urging the Wimbledon runner-up to show the crowd her outfit, a pink skirt and top with bright yellow straps.

Somewhat uncomfortably, the No. 7-ranked player twirled. Then she laughed and buried her face in her hands.

Eugenie Bouchard advanced to the third round after beating Kiki Bertens on Wednesday in Melbourne. BERNAT ARMANGUE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

During her post-match news conference Bouchard spoke first about her dominating 6-0, 6-3 win over Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands in just 54 minutes. Then she addressed the twirl.

"It was very unexpected," said Bouchard, who is known for a steely determination, drive and ambition that propelled her from relative obscurity to stardom last year. She reached the semifinals at last year's Australian and French Opens and the final at Wimbledon, becoming the first Canadian to appear in a Grand Slam final.

"I don't know, an old guy asking you to twirl. It was funny," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Day 4

- The Williams sisters advanced to the third round at the Australian Open Thursday, with top-ranked Serena fending off set points before going on a 10-game roll to beat Vera Zvonareva 7-5, 6-0 and Venus beating Lauren Davis in straight sets.
- Serena, seeking a sixth Australian and 19th Grand Slam title, saved three set points in the ninth game before holding to swing the momentum.

Women's World Cup

Players withdraw complaint over artificial turf

The turf war is over, with a group of elite women's players withdrawing its human rights complaint over artificial turf at this summer's Women's World Cup in Canada.

The women did not exit quietly, however. Their lawyer slammed FIFA and the Canadian Soccer Association, saying both governing bodies had behaved badly in the face of the challenge before the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario.

Lawyer Hampton Dellinger accused the soccer authorities of threatening players with suspension, delaying legal tactics and rejecting the players' "undeniably fair settlement offer."

"The players are doing what FIFA and CSA have proven incapable of — putting the sport of soccer first," Dellinger said in a statement Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLS

Toronto FC deals Bekker for cash

The Toronto FC rehaul continues, with Canadian midfielder Kyle Bekker shipped to FC Dallas to help fund future moves.

Toronto got allocation money in exchange for the 24-year-old Canadian international from Oakville — money it will likely use to pay for a target like veteran Polish defender Damien Perquis.

Bekker is the ninth player from Toronto's 2014 roster to leave the club.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Capital One Cup

Hotspur take first-leg lead over Sheffield United

Tottenham relied on Andros Townsend's penalty to gain a slim edge over third-tier side Sheffield United in the League Cup on Wednesday, taking a 1-0 lead into the second leg of their semi-final. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Do not get emotional about money. Yes, of course, it's nice to have enough of the stuff not to have to worry about paying the bills but at the end of the day it's still just coloured paper.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
A friend may be holding out on you in some way, but is it important? Pretend not to notice. If a small victory makes them happy, let them have it.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Someone more experienced than you will take you under their wing and teach you a number of things worth knowing. Amazingly they won't ask for a favour in return.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Don't worry if you fall behind in your schedule because you will catch up with ease tomorrow when Saturn compels you to act. It's nice to be on top of your work but it's no big deal if you waste time occasionally.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Where money matters are concerned push personal feelings to one side and do what's best for your long-term interests.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Don't make any hard plans for the next 24 hours because they will change. If a partner insists that you change direction, agree with them. Be flexible.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If you restrict yourself to one way of completing a task you will get bored and either do a poor job or give up on it. Keep yourself interested by varying your routine.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You won't find it hard to get things done today but try to remember that not everyone is as motivated as you. It gives you an excuse to work on your own, which you prefer.

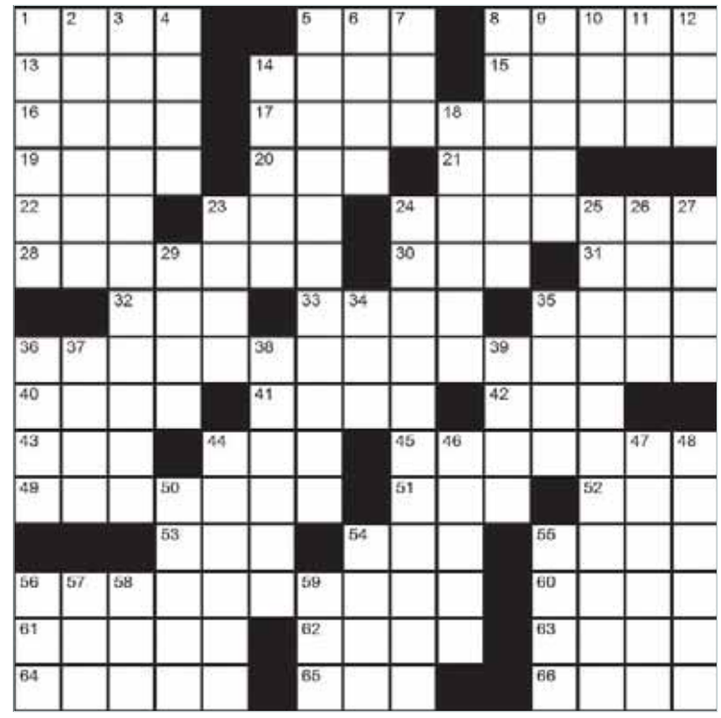
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may have a thousand and one issues to deal with but you must still find time to let loved ones know they mean the world to you. Remember, it's not about "me" it's about "us".

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
No one expects you to be perfect, so why do you expect it of yourself? If you have made some kind of mistake then hold your hand up and admit it.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you want someone to do you a favour you are going to have to flatter them, even though they don't deserve it. Keep your real thoughts to yourself.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Make it your aim over the next few days to finish something you started a long time ago. You may have to shut yourself away but focus and get it done.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



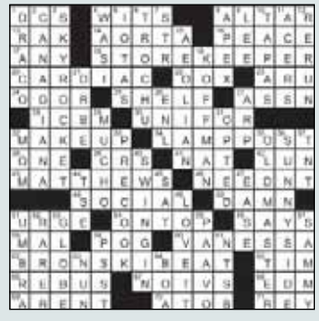
Across

1. Somewhat, musically
5. Puget, e.g.
8. Rapper whose 2007 album 'Epiphany' reached number one
13. German industrial region
14. Hoover Dam lake
15. Convey
16. 'Hypn' suffix
17. Grooming for guys
19. The Who's "__ O'Riley"
20. Wine classification, with Grand
21. '_' __ for Richelieu
22. Certain consciousness
23. T.O. Raptors home
24. Mount of the Muses
28. German: German
30. 'Fact' finisher
31. Canadian broadcaster Mr. Lewis
32. Angelina Jolie flick
33. Yore
35. The __ (Hamilton's daily newspaper, commonly)
36. Drama series starring Steve Buscemi set during Prohibition-era Atlantic City: 2 wds.
40. "You Can Count __ __" (2000)
41. Actor, Michael __
42. Asleep
43. Adriatic __
44. Chg. card percentage
45. Catch
49. Michael __ (Newfoundland author of current novel Sweetland)
51. Li'l digits
52. Captain's record
53. Mo. after March
54. Ms. Messing, briefly
55. Wound's remnant
56. 1982: Top 40 song for Frank Zappa and his daughter Moon Unit: 2 wds.
60. Obscure
61. The Miracles' "You Really Got _ __ on Me"
62. Advantage
63. Mr. Redding
64. Expire
65. Mattel product
66. Views

Down

1. Examined
2. Electricity problem
3. City in the Nord-du-Quebec region of La Belle Province
4. Sea wolf
5. Type of rescue operation: 2 wds.
6. Mork's greeting, when doubled
7. Initials-sharers of Rhea Perlman's hubby
8. 1836: The Backwoods of Canada
author, Catharine Parr __ (b.1802 - d.1899)
9. Particular pop
10. Ms. MacGraw
11. Sir McKellen
12. NFL team on the East Coast [acronym]
14. Old Rome's 2300
18. Make
23. "Take _ __ song..." - The Beatles, "Hey Jude"
24. Canadian petroleum company (with a dog logo) headquartered in Calgary: 2 wds.
25. Ottawa: 2 wds.
26. Finished
27. Kind
29. Lose steam
34. Calgary, __.
35. Made the wool
36. Pear variety
37. Niner - Eighter = Er, what?
38. Ontario: Niagara-on-the-Lake establishment
39. Toronto neighbourhood, __ Park
44. Hold back
46. Stately
47. Rock tour profession
48. Go forth
50. Retail complexes
54. "White Flag" songstress
55. Sandal, for one
56. __-d'Or, QC
57. '80s group
58. Crop
59. Acquire

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

4	3	9	2	5	1	7	6	8
1	8	7	3	9	6	5	2	4
5	2	6	7	8	4	3	1	9
6	9	2	1	4	5	8	3	7
3	4	1	8	7	2	6	9	5
8	7	5	9	6	3	1	4	2
2	1	8	5	3	9	4	7	6
7	6	3	4	2	8	9	5	1
9	5	4	6	1	7	2	8	3

Today's Sudoku

	5	3				7	9	
			7	4	6			
		7				1		
9	1		3		5		2	7
6								3
3	7		6		9		1	4
		8				5		
			8	5	2			
	4	9				3	8	

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AWARDED THE HIGHEST GOVERNMENT CRASH SAFETY RATING* U.S. NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

5-Star Overall Crash Safety Rating▲

HWY: 9.8L/100 KM
CITY: 12.9L/100 KM▼

Limited model shown♦

2015 SANTA FE SPORT 2.4L FWD

SELLING PRICE: $23,200 | DELIVERY & DESTINATION: $1,795 | ALL-IN CASH PURCHASE PRICE: $24,995‡

INCLUDES $3,835 IN FREE TRADE BONUSΩ

INCLUDES A 60-MONTH LIMITED WARRANTY††!

Visit HyundaiCanada.com for details on our entire line-up!

Dealers may charge additional fees for administration of up to $499. Charges may vary by Dealer.

5 YEAR WARRANTY

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty††
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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HyundaiCanada.com

®/™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. ‡Cash price of $10,995/$12,495/$24,995 available on all new 2015 Accent 4-Door L Manual/Elantra Sedan L Manual/Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD models and includes price reductions of $300/$600/$0. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,595/$1,595/$1,795, fees, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E. and a full tank of gas. ◊Leasing offer available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2015 Tucson GL FWD with an annual lease rate of 0%. Bi-weekly lease payment of $119 for a 60-month walk-away lease. Down Payment of $695 and first monthly payment required. Total lease obligation is $16,165. Lease offer includes Delivery and Destination of $1,760, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Lease offer excludes registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. $0 security deposit on all models. 20,000 km allowance per year applies. Additional charge of $0.12/km on all models except Genesis Sedan and Equus where additional charge is $0.25/km. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E. and a full tank of gas. ΩFree trade bonuses are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Free trade bonus of up to $3,885/$4,535/$750/$3,835 available on all new 2015 Accent 4-Door L Manual/Elantra L Manual/Tucson GL FWD/Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD models. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. ♦Prices of models shown: 2015 Accent GLS Auto/Elantra Limited/Tucson Limited AWD/Santa Fe Sport Limited AWD are $20,930/$26,930/$35,895/$41,580. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,595/$1,595/$1,760/$1,795, levies and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. fees of up to $499. Fees may vary by dealer. ▼Fuel consumption for new 2015 Accent GLS(HWY 6.3L/100KM; City 8.9L/100KM); 2015 Elantra Limited(HWY 6.7L/100KM; City 9.7L/100KM); 2015 Tucson Limited AWD (HWY 8.3L/100KM; City 11.3L/100KM);2015 Santa Fe Sport Limited AWD (HWY 9.8L/100KM; City 12.9L/100KM); are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ΔThe Hyundai Accent/Elantra received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among small/compact cars in the proprietary J.D. Power 2014 Initial Quality Study℠ (IQS). Study based on responses from 86,118 new-vehicle owners, measuring 239 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Propriety study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2014. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. ‡†♦ΩOffers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Visit www.hyundaicanada.com or see dealer for complete details. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.